

MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC
SPRING SEMINAR 2010

"See a World of Diversity – In Your Own Backyard"

Sunday, March 7, 2010 from 9m to 3:30pm at the Michael J Fox Theatre in Burnaby

What do camellias, a hot dry interior, and island garden vagaries have to do with each other? They are samples of the biodiversity that can occur in your own garden.

The UN has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. Vancouver has been playing host to the diverse world of sports with the Olympics. What better way for the MGABC to celebrate the diversity of our province, its members and the gardening world than with speakers from different places.

We have **Jennifer Trehane**, a world renowned Camellia expert from the UK on her way to Japan for the International Camellia Conference, who will stop here to speak about one of her passions. From Kelowna the local 'garden expert' **Don Burnett**, will help us understand some of the trials and joys of gardening in the part of BC which some might consider to be too hot or dry. From Vancouver Island, **Carmen Varcoe** will speak about the local gardening quirks there and what it is like gardening on an island, which is really a mountain top with the rest of the mountain buried beneath the sea.



Jennifer will take us on a tour of 'The World of Camellias'.

It will be an overview of camellias & their uses around the world, visiting China, Japan, Vietnam & Cambodia, the US, (Philadelphia, the Carolinas, Georgia, California), European countries from the Mediterranean to the Baltic, including the UK of course ! The talk emphasises their diversity and the way the different countries, with their climates varying from tropical to cold climate, manage their plants and enjoy them. There will also be information about recently discovered species in Vietnam & Cambodia, and some interesting discoveries and work on cold-hardy camellias, plus some information about recently introduced varieties from China & New Zealand.

Jennifer Trehane's lifelong passion for camellias stems from her involvement in the family nursery business. She has a bachelor of science in horticulture from the University of Reading, England. Jennifer is now one of three directors of the International Camellia Society and travels widely all over the world to see camellias growing in gardens and in the wild, and has been editor of their journal since 2006. She is also a member of the RHS Rhododendron and Camellia Committee and has been the author of two books - "Camellias: A Gardener's Guide to the Genus" and "Camellias: The Gardener's Encyclopedia".

Don Burnett is a household name when it comes to local gardening and landscaping issues in his hometown of Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Don is a certified arbourist, a certified tree risk

assessor, a landscape designer, a grower as well as a superb broadcaster, lecturer, author and researcher. Don's lecture "Gardening Challenges in the Hot Dry Interior" will give an Interior/Okanagan perspective to some of the gardening challenges that are different than those up North or on the coast.

Don has served Okanagan Gardeners for over 40 years beginning as a young teenager in the '60's. He writes a weekly Gardening column in the Kelowna Capital news and a monthly article for Gardens West magazine. One of his greatest passions is teaching and demonstrating the latest techniques in pruning and landscape design as well as several other popular gardening topics. Don can be heard each Saturday morning on AM1150 handing out gardening advice to the listeners as he has done since 1983. During the spring months he has a weekly segment with CHBC television on "Okanagan Now".

Carmen Varcoe comes to us from Vancouver Island, the closer area to us. She has a BA in Social Science and a Diploma in Education and has professed to be a 'complete garden and plant junkie.' She is well known on the Island and has done many things in the gardening world. She has been a Classroom instructor, given lectures on a wide range of garden topics, designed and maintained the Hardy plant garden at Glendale Gardens, been chair of the Advisory board for the University of Victoria's Finnerty Gardens, been an Executive member for Victoria Horticulture Society, the Victoria Rock and Alpine Society and the Hardy Plant Group.

Carmen will speak on the "Vagaries of Gardening on the Island". This lecture will cover a host of problems that face the Island gardener - damage by pests, animals, weather. She will also include plants- ones that do well and others not so well. She may also cover biodiversity ie. zonal areas in Greater Victoria area, of course weather changes over the past 30 years and some current concerns re diseases & pests.

Come learn with us about the diversity we all experience in our own gardens - Bring a friend and enjoy the plant and compost sales, silent auction and shop at all the vendors. You might even win a door prize! Registration is open to everyone.